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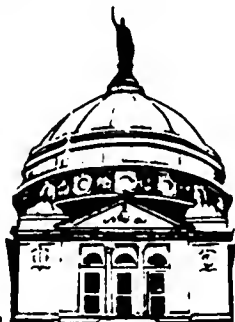
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THE INTERIM

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REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

September 17 Meeting...The Revenue Oversight Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 17 in Room 104 of the Capitol. The Committee will hear a staff report on the tax expenditure items contained in the Department of Revenue's Tax Expenditure Report. Other items on the agenda include a revenue collection report from the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, a staff review of the Department of Revenue's proposed rule change regarding the confidentiality of taxpayer information, and a report on the proposed activities of the Governor's task force on the state's property tax system. The task force is being formed primarily to examine issues related to the last property reappraisal cycle.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

Council to Meet in September...The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m., Friday, September 17 in Room 108 of the State Capitol.

SJR 34 Hazardous Waste Study...The Hazardous Waste Management Working Group (HWMWG) will recommend options for study topics to the full EQC at the September 17 meeting. The HWMWG, at its August 16

meeting, developed a tentative recommendation that the working group process continue beyond the initial issue identification phase of the study. In preparation for its September 16 meeting, when it will finalize recommendations to the EQC, the HWMWG has requested EQC staff to prepare an analysis of the existing hazardous waste regulatory framework and has assigned a subcommittee to evaluate existing information on hazardous waste generation rates in Montana.

Integrated Waste Management...As required by the Integrated Waste Management Act, the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences has completed and is now circulating for public comment a draft integrated solid waste management plan. The Department will make an informational presentation on the draft plan to the Council.

Nondegradation...The SJR 29 joint EQC/WPC subcommittee studying water quality nondegradation issues will report to the full EQC regarding its series of July public meetings. The 10 member subcommittee is expected to make recommendations regarding the scope, goals, and framework of the study, as well as recommendations to ensure maximum public involvement. The recommendations will be based on the results of a subcommittee meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16.

Other Items...Other agenda items include updates on MEPA implementation, residential energy efficiency issues, transportation energy policy development, the Water Resources Coordinating Committee, and electromagnetic fields. The Council will also finalize its interim work plan and review the possible impacts of potential budget reductions identified by the budget office for the natural resource agency.

For more information on these issues, please contact the EQC staff at 444-3742.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON VETERANS' NEEDS

Subcommittee to Hold First Meeting...The Joint Interim Subcommittee on Veterans' Needs will meet for the first time on Friday, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the Capitol. The agenda will include an overview of the resources available for Montana veterans from the Veterans Affairs Division. The Department of Corrections and Human Services and representatives of veterans' service organizations will be invited to give their comments on the needs of veterans in this state.

For further information on this subcommittee, please contact Susan Fox at the Legislative Council, 444-3064.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION ALTERNATIVES

Subcommittee to Meet in October...The Joint Interim Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation Alternatives will meet for the first time on Friday, October 29 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the Capitol. The agenda will include an overview of the 1993 legislation on workers' compensation and a briefing on the workers' compensation system.

For further information on this subcommittee, please contact Susan Fox at the Legislative Council, 444-3064

WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

To Meet in Missoula...The Water Policy Committee (WPC) will hold its next meeting on Monday, September 13 in Ballroom D of the Holiday Inn, 200 South Pattee Street, Missoula, MT. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Upper Clark Fork Basin Steering Committee...Members of the Upper Clark Fork Basin Steering Committee will update the WPC on their progress in developing a comprehensive basin management plan. The Steering Committee is required to complete the plan and report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 1994.

Instream Flow...The Committee will discuss options and adopt a detailed work plan for its instream flow interim study. The Committee previously decided to focus the study on better informing themselves, other legislators, and the broader public on instream flow issues.

Budget Reductions...Water Court Chief Judge Bruce Loble and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation personnel will report to the Committee on the impacts of the budget office's proposed Water Court budget reductions.

Public Meeting on Late Claims Study...The Committee will continue its study of late claims issues with a public meeting on the evening of

September 13 regarding potential additional forfeiture remission for late water claim filers. The late claims meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. in the same location as the afternoon meeting and will focus on public comment on an "Options Memo" prepared and distributed by Committee staff. For a copy of the memo or more information regarding the late claims issue, please contact EQC staff.

Other Items...Other agenda items include updates on the joint EQC/WPC water quality nondegradation study, wilderness dams, and a progress report on filling the position of director of the Water Resources Center at MSU.

For an agenda or more information on these issues, please contact the EQC staff at 444-3742.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee to Meet on September 9...The Legislative Finance Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on September 9 in Room 104 of the State Capitol. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst staff will present the budget amendment report; 1995 biennium workplan; a final report on fiscal 1993 revenues, expenditures, and ending fund balances in the general fund and school equalization account; and an analysis of the Office of Budget and Program Planning's list of potential budget reductions. The Budget Director is tentatively scheduled to present the Executive Budget for the potential special session. The Committee will also hear a report on the proposed reorganization of the university system from Dr. Jeff Baker, Acting Commissioner of Higher Education.

Committee to Interview Applicants...In the afternoon, the Committee will interview applicants for the position of Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

COMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION POLICY AND BUDGET

Committee to Hold First Meeting...The Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget will meet at 9:00 a.m. in Room 104 of the Capitol on October 1 to elect officers, establish goals, and prioritize tasks. The Committee will also hear an overview of the

Montana University System funding mechanisms and discuss the Board of Regents' proposed reorganization plan.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Committee to Hold First Meeting...The Committee on Indian Affairs will hold its first meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 23 in Room 104 of the State Capitol. The Committee will elect officers and select study topics for the interim.

To Hear Agency Reports...In the morning, the Committee will hear reports from executive branch agencies that are in active negotiations with Indian tribes. Those agencies include the Department of Revenue, the Department of Justice, the Montana University System, the Department of Family Services, and the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission. Kathleen Fleury will report on the activities of the Office of the Coordinator of Indian Affairs. A representative of the Montana Tribal Chairmans' Association will also address the Committee.

Committee to Hold Work Session...The Committee will hold a work session in the afternoon. Committee staff will present reports on legislation pertaining to Indian issues, federal Indian policy, and Indian gaming. The Committee will discuss and select study topics for the interim. The Committee will also set a tentative meeting schedule and discuss the feasibility of holding at least one meeting on an Indian reservation.

JUDICIAL UNIFICATION AND FINANCE COMMISSION

Commission Members Appointed...The 13-member Judicial Unification and Finance Commission has been appointed. The members are:

Roger Tippy
District Judge John Larson
Toni Atwood
Janet Kelly
Gregory Mohr
District Judge Douglas Harkin
Sen. Eleanor Vaughn (D)

Barbara Ford
Perry Wolf
John Stephenson, Jr.
Lori Maloney
Alfred Sampson
Rep. Jim Rice (R)

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Senate and House leadership have completed their appointments to the interim committees, statutory committees, and other committees with legislative membership. The appointments are as follows:

SENATE

HOUSE

Subcommittee on School Revenue

Bob Brown (R)	Shiell Anderson (R)
Del Gage (R)	Dan Harrington (D)
Ethel Harding (R)	William "Red" Menahan (D)
Barry "Spook" Stang (D)	Tom Nelson (R)
Cecil Weeding (D)	Ray Peck (D)

Subcommittee on Insurance Issues

Steve Doherty (D)	Betty Lou Kasten (R)
Del Gage (R)	Bill Ryan (D)
Connye Hager (R)	Bruce Simon (R)
Terry Klampe (D)	Diana Wyatt (D)

Subcommittee on Veterans' Needs

Betty Bruski-Maus (D)	John Johnson (D)
Ethel Harding (R)	Bob Pavlovich (D)
Henry McClernan (D)	Sam Rose (R)
Bernie Swift (R)	Bill Wiseman (R)

Committee on Workers' Compensation Alternatives

Sue Bartlett (D)	Ray Brandewie (R)
John Harp (R)	Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Daryl Toews (R)	Jim Elliott (D)
Bill Wilson (D)	Chase Hibbard (R)

Job Training Partnership Act Review Committee

Chris Christiaens (D)	Fritz Daily (D)
Connye Hager (R)	Harriet Hayne (R)

Committee on Public Employee Retirement Systems

Tom Beck (R)	Jerry Driscoll (D)
Don Bianchi (D)	Marjorie Fisher (R)
John Hertel (R)	Patrick Galvin (D)
Bob Hockett (D)	Dick Simpkins (R)

Legislative Energy Policy Committee

Bruce Crippen (R)	Mike Foster (R)
Harry Fritz (D)	John Mercer (R)
John Harp (R)	Bob Raney (D)
Fred Van Valkenburg (D)	Ted Schye (D)

Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy & Budget

Bob Brown (R)	Jack Herron (R)
Judy Jacobson (D)	Royal Johnson (R)
Greg Jergeson (D)	Mike Kadas (D)
Chuck Swysgood (R)	Ted Schye (D)

Other Members: Jim Kaze, Pat Davison, Pat Haffey Lopach, and D'Anna Smith

Local Citizen Review Board Screening Committee

Judy Jacobson (D)	John Cobb (R)
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Legislative Oversight Committee on Montana-ARCO Litigation

Bruce Crippen (R)	Steve Benedict (R)
Mike Halligan (D)	Bea McCarthy (D)

Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

Mike Halligan (D)	Bob Gilbert (R)
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Gaming Advisory Council

Bob Pipinich (D)	Bill Strizich (D)
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MONTANA HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

Authority Holds First Meeting...The Montana Health Care Authority, created by Senate Bill No. 285 (SB 285) to recommend a universal health care plan to the 1995 Legislature, held its first meeting in the Old Supreme Court Chamber on August 11. The five members of the Authority, appointed by Governor Racicot, are Dorothy Bradley, Lloyd Lockrem, Jr., John T. Malloy, Marget Newman, and Donald J. Rush. Dorothy Bradley was elected as presiding officer and Lloyd Lockrem as vice presiding officer. Non-voting ex officio members are Attorney General Joe Mazurek, Insurance Commissioner Mark O'Keefe, Bob Robinson, Director of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, and Peter Blouke, Director of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Authority Begins Work...Under SB 285, the Authority must present both a single payer health care plan (one entity pays all of the bills for health care) and a multi-payer health care plan (multiple entities pay the bills) for all Montanans to the Legislature by October 1, 1994. In pursuit of that goal, the Authority listened to presentations from the ex officio members on the role of those members in the Authority's work. The Authority also hired a temporary executive director and began the process to receive nominations from county commissioners for members of the regional health care boards. The regional boards are required by SB 285 to assist the Authority in determining statewide health care needs by determining regional health care needs and resources and to report their findings to the Authority. The Authority directed that rules pertaining to the regional boards be drafted and proposed.

HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN COMMITTEE

Committee to Meet in September...The Health Benefit Plan Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, September 29 in Room 111 (conference room) of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation building. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Will Begin Evaluating Proposals...The Committee will begin evaluating proposals for the standard and basic small group health benefit plans. Proposals should include the following items: benefits covered, benefit exclusions and restrictions, deductible, copayment, maximum out-of-pocket expenses, annual or lifetime maximum benefits, if any, and cost containment features. The standard plan must include all mandated benefits, but the basic plan may exclude any mandated benefit. If possible, the proposal should include an estimate of the price of the policy.

Proposals must be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible. They may be sent to:

Montana Health Benefit Plan Committee
Insurance Department
P.O. Box 4009
Helena, MT 59604-4009
Attention: Carol Roy

For further information, please contact Claudia Clifford or Carol Roy at the Insurance Department, 444-2040 or 1-800-332-6148 (in-state).

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TOM P. GOMEZ

Tom Gomez, a researcher with the Legislative Council since 1984, died Saturday morning, August 28, at his parents' home in Billings following an extended fight with cancer. Tom was born December 1, 1954, in Billings, the son of Philip and Carmen Gomez.

Tom will be remembered by all of those with whom he worked for the passion and commitment with which he approached everything he did. His sincerity was expressed with an overwhelming enthusiasm both for learning everything he could about every issue he confronted and for sharing that knowledge with everyone who would listen. Tom made sure everyone would listen. We remember Tom racing through the hallways of the Capitol with his tie blowing back over his shoulder. We remember Tom sensing the presence of a legislator in the hallway and rushing to share the latest bit of information he had uncovered. We remember Tom talking for hours on the telephone to gather information and share it. For Tom, this truly was his vocation. He pursued his work as long as he was able with all the passion of one who is not merely employed but called to serve his community.

Tom's other passion was for his close and loving family. He is survived by his parents in Billings, four brothers and two sisters in addition to his wife, June, and beloved 7 year old daughter Elisia.

It was a comfort to Tom that a trust account has been established for the benefit of Elisia. A person wishing to contribute to this trust may do so by sending a check to D. A. Davidson fbo Elisia Gomez account #33560134, P.O. Box 1692, Helena, MT 59624. A contribution to the trust or to Big Sky Hospice in Billings would be a fitting memorial to Tom.

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

KAREN E. NORTHEY

Karen Northey, 49, wife of Legislative Audit Legal Counsel John Northey, died on August 28, 1993, at her home in Helena after a three-year battle with cancer. Karen was born August 21, 1944, and was raised in Ogden, Utah and Yellowstone National Park.

She married John W. Northey in Missoula on March 28, 1966. They moved to Helena in 1970, and Karen was employed by the Florence Crittenton Home, where she served as director since 1971. In 1991, she was named Employer of the Year by the Helena Business and Professional Women's Association.

Many associated with the legislative branch will remember Karen for her efforts in support of youth programs. She was a member of the Board of Directors of Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies and was a member of the Montana Child Care Association. Karen lobbied for Montana youth during legislative sessions.

Karen was often trying to secure adequate housing for the youth served by the Florence Crittenton Home. In recent months, a long-term dream of Karen's was realized, a building project was approved and a site selected in Helena for a new Crittenton Home.

A gathering of friends was held on Wednesday, September 1, 1993, at the site of the new Florence Crittenton Home. Those wishing to remember Karen may send memorials to the Florence Crittenton Home Building Fund, 846 Fifth Avenue, Helena, MT 59601.

THE BACK PAGE

Beginning this month, *The Interim* offers a new section called "The Back Page". This section will feature an article each month on a specific topic of interest to our readers. It is hoped that this feature article will be informative and thought-provoking. We hope you enjoy this new feature.

Recently, the Department of Commerce announced a reorganization of its Business Development Division. The purpose of the reorganization was to make the division more "user-friendly" for people seeking business assistance from the department. This was followed by an announcement by Fish, Wildlife, & Parks that it was reorganizing its regional administrative system. Last spring, the Department of Corrections and Human Services implemented a completely new administrative scheme for Montana State Prison, including the elimination of the Prison Warden position.

In our first feature article, Sheri Heffelfinger of the Legislative Council staff reviews an article on reorganizing state government that looks at the current trends in this area.

TRENDS IN REORGANIZING STATE GOVERNMENT

by Sheri Heffelfinger

An article in the December 1992 issue of State Trends and Forecasts, a Council of State Governments publication, predicted that a new wave of comprehensive executive branch reorganization will occur in at least a dozen states within the next 10 years.

The article reviews four basic options for states: (1) not to reorganize at all; (2) a partial reorganization; (3) a reorganization affecting the number of elected executive officials; and (4) a comprehensive reorganization. Most states are likely to pursue option two, a partial reorganization, according to State Trends.

However, the article also predicted that executive reorganization will continue to be a political rather than administrative issue. State legislatures and the voters will continue to have the final say on major reorganization decisions.

Montana's state government completed a comprehensive reorganization in the 1970's when numerous agencies were consolidated. Partial reorganizations have occurred in Montana state government from time to time since then. Today we have 18 primary state departments, but there are still numerous boards and commissions.

Contrary to what many reorganization advocates maintain, State Trends does not project substantial cost savings from executive reorganization for the following reasons:

- Many agencies, boards, and commissions that are eliminated tend to have minuscule budgets.
- Initial savings are likely to be reinvested.
- New programs and new laws initiated during the process will result in higher spending.
- Inflation and cost-of-living adjustments for state workers cancel out most of the potential savings.

Nevertheless, State Trends cites the apparent, though not yet time-proven, success of a sweeping 1985 reorganization in Iowa that yielded \$60 million in savings. Iowa's reorganization, implemented over four years, reduced from 68 to 20 the number of departments; gave the governor appointment authority over all department heads; created a Department of Management to control the budget and a Department of Personnel to control personnel and benefit functions; slashed more than 1,700 positions (10 percent), some already vacant; established an early retirement program; privatized state liquor stores; and created a budget process based on priority-driven goals. In many ways, Iowa's executive reorganization mirrors the activities in Montana some 20 years ago.

Since Iowa's reorganization initiatives were undertaken in the midst of a fiscal crisis, one scholar regards Iowa's experience as "a benchmark for a new, fifth wave of executive branch reorganization".



INTERIM CALENDAR

September 6, Labor Day, holiday

September 9, Legislative Finance Committee, Room 104, 9:00 a.m.

September 13, Water Policy Committee, Holiday Inn, Missoula, 1:00 p.m.

September 17, Revenue Oversight Committee, Room 104, 9:30 a.m.

September 17, Environmental Quality Council, Room 108, 8:30 a.m.

September 23, Committee on Indian Affairs, Room 104, 9:30 a.m.

September 29, Health Benefit Plan Committee, DNRC Room 111, 8:30 a.m.

October 1, Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy & Budget, Room 104, 9:00 a.m.

October 11, Columbus Day holiday, observed

October 22, Subcommittee on Veterans' Needs, Room 104, 9:00 a.m.

October 29, Committee on Workers' Compensation Alternatives, Room 104, 10:00 a.m.

November 11, Veterans' Day, holiday

November 25, Thanksgiving Day, holiday

December 24, Christmas Eve, holiday

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